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# The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News



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# ROOMS WITH A VIEW

## \$2.4M in DUMBO

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Papers

How much would you pay to see this view out your window? Too late: Someone already paid \$2.4 million for it.

That was the price paid for the 1,300-square-foot penthouse apartment atop the Beacon Tower condominium in DUMBO. You can get that much space, albeit with a lesser view, for under \$1.4 million in Park Slope and \$900,000 in some other Brownstone Brooklyn neighborhoods.

"DUMBO is the new Tribeca," gushed Debra Greco, the building's real-estate manager. All but 14 of the 79 condos had been sold on the eve of Monday's "topping off" ceremony.

The Beacon Tower, at 85 Adams St., is one of several DUMBO buildings developed by Shaya Boymelgreen.

Condo buyers will enjoy a healthy city subsidy in the form of the 421-a tax abatement.

Boymelgreen's son, Zvi, said "the program gives developers a head start to build. A lot of new construction would not happen without the 421-a. Land is too expensive."

For now, Beacon Tower is the tallest building in the neighborhood, towering over the renovated warehouses and artists lofts that give the neighborhood its cachet.

But the Beacon Tower is like a latter-day Chrysler Building. While its workmen were enjoying the topping-off party, builders a block away were adding more floors to the J, another luxury condo building that will eventually rise 33 stories — the Empire State Building in this extended skyscraper metaphor.



This is the \$2.4-million view from the 1,300-square-foot penthouse of the Beacon Tower at 85 Adams St. in DUMBO. The 297-foot, 23-story tower is the largest (so far) to go up in the rapidly developing neighborhood.

## \$3M in old bank building



The clock tower of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank.

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Papers

People used to go to the Williamsburgh Savings Bank building to have a tooth removed. Now, to get into the building, they'll have to give up a right arm, too.

Residential condos in the famed tower — still the tallest building on Long Island — were officially put on the market this week, as developer Magic Johnson hosted real-estate agents eager to see how the building — atop a cathedral-like space that was occupied by the former bank's home office — has been transformed.

"This will always be Brooklyn's landmark building," said Borough President Markowitz, before giving Johnson a Brooklyn Dodgers cap and a cheesecake from Junior's — a gift that five out of five dentists would disapprove of.

At the zenith of the 512-foot Fort Greene landmark will be a \$3-million, 2,500-square-foot penthouse whose balcony offers a commanding view of the borough and beyond.

Only a handful of dentists remain in the tower, renamed One Hanson Place. Sources said a Borders bookstore is negotiating a lease for the ground floor.

Johnson says he'll move into one of the 189 luxury units in the building, a short walk from Bruce Ratner's proposed arena for the Brooklyn-bound New Jersey Nets.

"It'll be able to walk to a Nets game," said the former Los Angeles Lakers star, whose Canyon-Johnson Urban Funds spent an undisclosed amount to renovate the \$70-million building.

While the well-heeled VIPs sipped martinis, a dozen members of ACORN, an affordable housing advocacy group, picketed outside to protest the absence of low-cost units.

But Johnson defended the project. "It would be unfair to say we haven't tried our hardest," said Johnson. "But if the numbers don't work, they don't work... We have to answer to [our] investors."

Buyers of luxury apartments in the building will benefit from the city's 421-a tax-abatement program.

## RATS! Health Dept. closes 'Chuck'

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Papers

Chuck E. Cheese has a cute mouse for a mascot — and lots of dirty mice in the kitchen.

The fast-food restaurant and arcade, housed on the third-floor of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Terminal Mall, was shut down last week by the city's Department of Health after inspectors found — oh, the irony — mouse droppings throughout the kitchen.

Make that a lot of mouse droppings. "Approximately 30 mice droppings on paper goods storage shelf near kitchen entrance," read the June 8 inspection report, a copy of which was obtained by The Brooklyn Papers.

"Approximately 10-20 mice droppings on shelf floor of rear exit. Evidence of mice or live mouse present in facility's food and non-food areas..."

Approximately 60-70 mouse droppings on floor in electrical closet in kitchen. In all, the restaurant and video-game palace racked up 81 violations — and was shuttered rather hastily, customers said.

"I went to order lunch, but the staff told me the kitchen was closed," said Park Slope mom Deborah Majerovitz, who was at the arcade with son, Benji.

"This seemed weird because the salad bar and drinks were still open. I figured they were just giving themselves a break, so about a half-hour later, I went back. This time, the staffer pointed to the yellow 'Closed' signs plastered along the windows."

Majerovitz said Cheese employees hurriedly shut down the arcade games and began carrying black trash bags out of the kitchen.

"That's when I got out of there," she said, adding that she's not such a

big fan of Charles Edward Cheese.

"The noise is deafening, the food is awful, and the place is only marginally clean, but it can provide several hours of bliss for the kids on a rainy day."

The health department re-inspected the restaurant this week and cleared it to re-open.

"We did have some violations, but we have corrected them," said Brenda Holloway, a spokeswoman for the Irving, Texas-based chain. "These violations are not common at our centers."

Holloway said the Atlantic Terminal Chuck E. Cheese will receive more frequent visits from its pest-control company, Eco-Lab.

She said the site is "one of our largest [revenue] producers."

The 521-store chain raised the ire of some Park Slopes last year for showing military recruiting videos in its arcade.



The Chuck E. Cheese restaurant at the Atlantic Terminal Mall was closed down by the Health Department this week when a routine inspection turned up — you guessed it — mouse droppings.



## Duck, Paulie, duck!

Benensturn son Paulie Malinaggi is at the wrong end of a left jab from Miguel Cotto during the sixth round of Saturday night's World Boxing Organization Junior Welterweight title fight at Madison Square Garden. To find out how Paulie did, see page 6.

## Black Democrats: Yassky is stealing 'our' seat in Congress

By Dana Rubinstein  
and Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Papers

Minority legislators last week reduced a central Brooklyn congressional race to a zero-sum game: a person cannot claim to be a supporter of civil rights yet also support City Councilman David Yassky's bid for Congress.

Rep. Major Owens, who currently represents the 11th congressional district, is retiring — and four candidates are drooling over the rare open seat.

Yassky is the only white person running in the district, drawn decades ago under the Voting Rights Act with the goal of concentrating black voting power.

"[Supporting Yassky] flies in the face of the legacy of our struggle," said City Councilman Al Vann (D-Bedford-Stuyvesant).

Vann had sent out a call to arms — using the City Council's email system — to "Black Elected Officials, City, State and Federal," warning, "We are in peril... as a result of the well-financed candidacy of Council Member David Yassky, a white individual."



No longer seeking a promotion, Assemblyman Nick Perry announced he's backing Councilwoman Yvette Clarke for Congress.

Vann's memo was first reported by the New York Sun.

Vann and an estimated two dozen minority leaders held a strategy meeting Monday to discuss supporting one of the three black candidates: state Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights), City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke (D-Crown Heights) and Chris Owens (the congressman's son).

The group held a press conference later in the day at which Vann decried Yassky's "opportunism" and "political ambition."

Last week, a fourth black candidate, Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush), dropped out of the race and ripped Yassky while endorsing Clarke.

"A million-dollar, special interest candidate has chosen to disrespect our political compact, which all decent politicians respect: this district was created to give minorities in Brooklyn a seat at the table," Perry said.

"No decent politician would raise a million dollars to steal a seat and cause a minority group, which is already under-represented in Congress, to lose a seat at the table. The candidate elected should come from the African-American community."

Clarke was asked whether she shared Perry's view. "Assemblyman Perry is expressing himself, which is his right," Clarke said. "I wouldn't use

See FIGHTIN' on page 5





# Nab armed thief

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

A witness helped police nab a 21-year-old man who stole \$74 from a woman whom he threatened with a box-cutter on June 2.

The thug approached his 34-year-old victim as she walked along Baltic Street, near Henry Street, near shortly before 1 a.m., police said. The thief flashed the blade and demanded cash, insisting that she remain quiet.

## POLICE BLOTTER

The robber found \$74 on the woman, but abandoned his search for any other valuables when a witness rushed over to help the victim. The witness then managed to hold onto the thief until Police Officer Miguel Soto of the 76th Precinct arrived to arrest the suspect. Soto also recovered the box-cutter and the cash, which he returned to the victim.

### Thwart mugger

A woman walking home from the subway in Carroll Gardens managed to fight off a pre-dawn mugging attempt on June 8, police said.

The would-be thief followed the woman to the corner of Clinton and Congress streets, where he tried to grab her bag at 2:20 a.m. A minor tug-of-war broke out, but the victim held onto the purse and the mugger ran off empty-handed.

The woman described the attacker as a dark-skinned man wearing a black jacket, a black baseball hat and white sneakers.

### Mace in face

A septuagenarian targeted a man 20 years his junior during a June 5 mace assault, police said.

The senior stalker approached his 40-year-old victim near the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Prince Street, at 2:30 p.m. The elderly thug whipped out a can of the pepper spray, spritzed his victim in the face — leaving his eyes burning — and returned the can to his pocket.

It was unclear what provoked the attack. The maced man wasn't seriously hurt and nothing was stolen, police said.

### Drug bust

Police said they found a fake gun and a cache of drugs when they arrested two people allegedly getting high in a parked car near the Brooklyn-Queens

Expressway on June 5.

Officers noticed the pair parked in a deserted section of Emerson Place, near Park Avenue, at around 10:30 p.m. When cops asked the woman for identification, they saw her stash a glass pipe with what they believed to be a rack of crack-cocaine in the back seat.

Police said their search of the woman produced a second stem and more drugs. A check of computerized police records revealed that law enforcement officials were looking for the woman.

As police approached the male occupant, a smell police believed to be marijuana wafted from an open car door. They said they found the man kneeling on the pavement outside the car, with the driver's side door open, and a bag of pot — plus an open 24-ounce can of Budweiser — stashed inside the vehicle.

Officers said when they searched the second suspect they discovered five methamphetamine pills, marijuana and an imitation pistol, complete with a holster.

The man now faces felony drug possession charges, while his female colleague faces misdemeanor drug possession charges.

Police Officer Tanisha Walker of the 88th Precinct is credited with the collars.

### Armed mug

A woman who may have had a gun robbed a 24-year-old Fort Greene resident returning home after work on June 7, police said.

The thief approached her 24-year-old victim as she neared her South Portland Avenue home, near Atlantic Avenue, just after 7 p.m. "Stop — I have a weapon," the mugger insisted, moving what seemed to be a gun under her shirt.

"Give me your wallet. I don't want to make a scene,"

The victim pulled out her wallet — plucked out her driver's license — and turned the green billfold over to the thief with a variety of credit cards and \$50.04 inside. Police are searching for a black woman in her early 30s, 5-foot-2 and 130 pounds, with short dark hair, dressed that day in a black sweatshirt.

### Morning scare

A 20-year-old woman suffered a scare, but escaped unhurt, when attacked by a knife-wielding thug on June 6, police said.

The man approached his victim as she walked along Putnam Avenue, near Fulton Street, around 10 a.m. It's not clear what he wanted, but his threat — even in broken English — frightened the woman: "I'll stab you, bitch."

### Buckle debate

Safety first? Not necessarily. A car service driver dumped a woman on the curb after she tried to lecture him on the need to wear his seat belt, police said.

The 33-year-old victim hailed the car service at midnight on June 10, on Fulton Street near South Portland Avenue. When she got in, she insisted that the driver buckle up.

Her persistence annoyed the driver, who slammed on the breaks, got out of the car and pulled the passenger out of the back seat. Cursing at the woman, he shoved his hands into her face, jumped back into his cab and sped off, police said.

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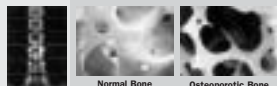
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# Temple targeted twice in one day

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

A Garfield Place synagogue was hit by a would-be burglar and a purse-snatcher on the same day last week, police said.

When someone tried to break into the building near Eighth Avenue at 2:30 am on June 8, the burglar alarm sounded.

A member of the congregation arrived at 6:30 am to discover a broken lock on a side window, but no other damage. Police lifted fingerprints from the window, but it's not clear if anything was stolen.

Unfortunately, another thief made his intentions clear some five hours later. That's

when an 18-year-old counselor at the temple discovered her wallet was missing from her pocketbook, which she had stashed inside the girl's locker room in the building's basement.

The victim said she left the bag unattended for less than five minutes, during a quick trip to the bathroom, and returned to find that someone had escaped with her school ID, several credit cards and \$27.

**Parking rage**  
An argument over a parked car turned violent when the vehicle's owner pulled a knife and stabbed the victim on June 10, police said.

The beef began around 12:45 pm when the 38-year-old victim asked the driver to

## POLICE BLOTTER

move his car, which had been parked on St. Johns Place, near Sixth Avenue. The driver refused, tensions rose, and he pulled a knife and stabbed the other man several times on the right side of his body.

Police arrested the 26-year-old attacker less than 10 minutes later and a few blocks away.

**Attitude attack**  
A thief stabbed a 19-year-old man when the victim dumped the loot—a dollar in change—on the pavement, instead of placing it in his sticky fingers, police said.

The thief asked for a hand-out when he encountered the man walking along Prospect Park West, near Fifth Street, minutes before 11 pm on June 7. When the victim said he was broke, the robber replied, "What's that in your pocket?"

The man pulled a handful of coins from his pocket and dropped them on the ground in front of the mugger.

The thief uttered a particularly graphic curse, pulled a sharp object from his pocket and slashed the victim on the right side of his head. The victim ran to Methodist Hospital

on Seventh Avenue, where he called police.

Police are searching for a white Hispanic man, 5-foot-4, with brown hair, blue pants, a blue shirt and a multi-colored hat.

### Biker thief

Police nabbed a bicycle-riding robber who stole an iPod from a woman walking along Eighth Street on June 6, police said.

The 25-year-old victim watched the rider peddle up Third Avenue just before 11 pm. The biker rode by her and tried to snatch her pocketbook. When she held tight, he insisted, "Let go, white bitch," and kicked and shoved her until she fell to the pavement.

The robber picked her dig-

ital music device from the bag and rode off. But he didn't get far. Police arrested a 37-year-old suspect on robbery charges. They also recovered the iPod and collected the bike as evidence.

### Art appreciation

A thief with an eye for color removed a pair of oil paintings—one worth \$20,000—from a home on Grand Army Plaza, police said.

The 98-year-old art lover said her paintings were on the wall of her house, near Flatbush Avenue, at 9 pm on June 5. But by 2 pm the following day, the oils had disappeared.

The woman said people had access to the building, but nothing else was missing.

### Transit heist

Police nabbed four teens who allegedly robbed a 74-year-old woman as she tried to purchase a MetroCard at the Seventh Avenue subway station.

The teenagers—three boys and a girl—rushed the elderly woman as she used the MetroCard vending machine at 12:30 pm on June 11. The group grabbed her wallet and ran from the F line station, emerging on Ninth Street.

But the victim's 38-year-old daughter gave chase, fol-

lowing the thieves to the street level and then calling 911. Police broadcast her description of the robbers over their radios and a nearby officer soon spotted the four suspects.

The officer yelled, "Police, don't move," sending the teens scattering in four different directions.

The suspects dashed in and out of traffic, knocking down a second elderly woman on the way, with police chasing

behind on foot. Authorities eventually corralled the teenage thugs and, when three witnesses identified them as the thieves, arrested them—three 13-year-old boys and a 15-year-old girl—on robbery charges.

Police also recovered the victim's blue wallet, which still held \$150 and her credit cards.

Officer Wilson Ortiz is credited with the collar.

## 'Bullet busses' sought for Flatbush Av

The Brooklyn Papers

Busses would speed down traffic-clogged Flatbush Avenue—or other congested routes—under a proposed "Bus Rapid Transit" program unveiled by city officials this week.

The proposed system would create an exclusive lane for busses along a few busy roadways around the city. The actual bus rapid transit routes have not yet been determined, although Flatbush Avenue is one of three routes in Brooklyn being studied.

The super express bus would stop at Grand Army Plaza, the LIRR station at Atlantic Avenue,

and at Smith Street in Downtown Brooklyn before ending its run near Borough Hall.

Such rapid bus routes have been set up in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Toronto and Kansas City. But the concept is foreign in Brooklyn, where the average bus spends 46 percent of its time stopped in traffic or at a bus stop.

City officials want to change that.

"It is time for intelligent transportation," said Ted Orosi, project manager for the MTA.

The city said Wednesday that only time—and traffic analysis—would tell whether Flatbush, Nostrand or Flatlands avenues would make the best corridor

for Brooklyn's bullet bus.

Many Downtown planners and residents believe a "bus rapid transit" system is a necessity along Flatbush.

"It's [a key artery] that doesn't function very well for anyone now, whether you are a bus rider, motorist or bike rider," said Aaron Naparstek, a community organizer. "Bus rapid transit would really help, especially with all the development on the drawing board for Downtown."

—Ariella Cohen

## Seeking PS 91's Class of '56

The Brooklyn Papers

Whatever happened to the Class of '56?

Actually, that's what PS 91 wants to know. The Crown Heights elementary school is inviting members of its 1956 graduating class to be honored

at this year's "graduation" ceremony on June 26.

The trouble is, it's hard to find them.

"Most people have scattered, so we're trying to get the word out," said Bernard Gordon, an assistant principal at a neighboring school, who

is helping organize the event.

At least one member of the Class of '56 has been located. He wasn't hard to find. After all, he's the borough president.

"Five decades ago, an apple was for the teacher, not a computer," said Borough President Markowitz. "But the education and respect taught at PS 91 continue to make Brooklyn's students the best of the bunch. Who knows, maybe one day, they'll even produce a future borough president!"

—Gersh Kuntzman

## The NYPD wants all the 'works

The Brooklyn Papers

Police across Brooklyn have made their warning clear: fireworks are dangerous and anyone caught with them will be arrested. Cops don't want to see anybody lose a finger while celebrating the July 4th holiday.

A trio of Sunset Park residents never got the message, cops said. Police arrested the three men, ages 24, 28 and 36 and sharing the same 59th Street address, at 5:30 pm on June 9.

According to police, the trio was nabbed with two cases of fireworks inside a deli on Eighth Avenue, near 58th Street. They were cuffed and charged with unlawful fireworks dealing.

—Stainton

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## OUR OPINION

## The madness of Kings

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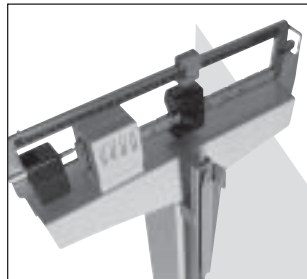


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# Yassky bill would push \$3M to Ratner crony

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

City Councilman David Yassky is under fire for asking city taxpayers to underwrite a promise that Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner made to a handful of community organizations.

Under the provisions of a "community benefits agreement" negotiated by Ratner and the groups, the developer and his supporters pledged to create a job-training program.

Thus far, Ratner has given \$285,000 towards that worker-training program, which is being administered by Brooklyn United for Innovative Local Development (BUILD).

Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) now proposes a city contribution of \$3 million — more than 10 times what Ratner's given. Critics were quick to point out that Yassky submitted the budget request after BUILD President James Caldwell and other CBA signatories endorsed his bid to succeed retiring Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights) in the mostly black 11th congressional district in central Brooklyn.

Yassky declined to respond

to critics who accused him of bailing out Ratner, but said through a spokeswoman that the money would be well spent.

"There is an eight-and-half percent unemployment rate in the area and that is not going to go down unless there is more access to job-training programs," said spokeswoman Evan Thies.

"More money needs to be going to establish these essential programs."

Critics say the bid for public funding is another example of the developer relying on taxpayers to make good on his promises.

"Yassky is [betting] Ratner get public money without going through the public process."

said Bill Batson, a Community Board 8 member who is running to succeed Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Prospect Heights). Green, a longtime Atlantic Yards supporter, is running for Congress.

Experts on CBAs thought the Yassky bill was misguided. "Public funding usually doesn't happen after the CBA is signed," said Rosanna Tynan, a spokeswoman for the LA Alliance for a New Economy, which was involved in a landmark CBA in that city.

"The developer is still on the hook for the benefits that he owes. If the money is com-

ing from the public that should be clear from the beginning."

"We believe that Forest City Ratner has done their share and now [city officials] have to do its share," he said.

It's no surprise that BUILD is looking for funding. The non-profit once anticipated receiving \$5 million from Ratner, according to an IRS filing.

"That [filing] was a mistake," Caldwell told The Brooklyn Papers this week. The city and state have each already allocated \$100 million to cover infrastructure improvements that will help Ratner build his \$3.5-billion, 17-scraper development in Prospect Heights.

But the costs of implementing the CBA's celebrated commitment to hiring local workers and building affordable housing have never figured into public discussion of the project. Until now.

"We're wise enough now to know that we can't expect Forest City Ratner to do everything," said Caldwell.

Spokespeople for Forest City Ratner did not return calls for comment.

## FIGHTIN'...

Continued from page 1

the term "steal," I'd call it a "hostile takeover."

At Monday's press conference, Major Owens urged the Democratic Party, "from Howard Dean all the way down to [Brooklyn party boss] Vito Lopez, to support the spirit of the Voting Rights Act. Don't ambush your most loyal constituency."

The late Shirley Chisholm and Owens have held the seat since it was drawn during the mid-1960s.

Yann admitted he's been putting some pressure on the black candidates to drop out.

"We have told all candidates that they must put the Voting Rights Act before their personal ambition," said Yann. "If not for the Voting Rights Act, most of us would not be here. We cannot have retrogression now."

There is no indication that one of the black candidates will take one for the team.

"I plan on winning this election no matter who is running because I am the best candidate for all voters in the community," said Andrews. "I believe there are many reasons not to vote for David Yassky that have nothing to do with the color of his skin."

Chris Owens also said he had no plans to withdraw.

"No elected official specifically has asked me to withdraw," he said. "I am sure that request will come at some time. If that request is made, it will be made of all three of us."

For his part, Yassky dismissed the rhetoric. "I am focused on making my case to all the people of this district," he said. "I am going to work as hard as I can to reach out to everyone, talk about my progressive record of accomplishment, my efforts to fight Republicans in Washington, and to deliver for the district."

Some Yassky supporters say he would be more effective than a black legislator because every time he sought reelection, he would have to demonstrate that he had indeed delivered. Major Owens's 12 straight election victories were far less competitive.

## Clarification

Last week, a front page article, "Yards racial fire," implied that Atlantic Yards opponent Daniel Goldstein had used the word "slaves" to describe the relationship between developer Bruce Ratner and his black allies. Goldstein only used the term "wealthy white masters," not the word "slaves." The Brooklyn Papers regrets the confusion.

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## Robert McCrae: Shooting and Scoring

By Leonard Jacobs

Evans I. Schwartz's nifty book, *The Last Lone Inventor*, about Philo T. Farnsworth, the inventor of the television, describes Farnsworth's hope for his creation to become "the world's greatest teaching tool." What Robert McCrae has done with *Camp Friendship Basketball*, airing Saturdays at 11am on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT), is a tribute to Farnsworth's vision.

Camp Friendship, located at 339 Eighth St. between 5th and 6th streets in Brooklyn, is a year-round after-school center that offers everything from tutoring sessions and teen mentoring to seasonal sports and a summer day camp. McCrae, who by day is a manager and 26-year veteran of the New York City Transit Authority, has been involved in the basketball leagues at Camp Friendship for the last 17 years.

"What *Camp Friendship Basketball* shows on TV is what Camp Friendship does: it introduces kids ages 6 to 13 to basketball by putting them directly in a game environment," McCrae says. "The games run January to the end of March, and are played on Saturday mornings, 9:00am to 2:30pm. We spend six weeks teaching them how to play—what positions to play, how to dribble, how to shoot, how to pass—then they go into individual teams. There are six games a day—six junior teams, ages 6 to 10, and six senior teams, ages 10 to 13." *Camp Friendship Basketball*, in essence, is a broadcast of the actual game—and McCrae films 44 of them a year. "What we're showing now are the 2005 games; the 2006 games won't be shown until later this year or next year."

When he first created the program in 2004, McCrae says he toyed with spicing up the games by adding some network-style narration. Instead, he has since found it

better to add "upbeat tunes" to the background and to let the excitement of the games themselves come through naturally.

Filming, however, posed an immediate challenge because McCrae is also the official of the games. Like any good basketball player, he easily found a way around it. "In the first season, my young daughter filmed all the games," he says. "She was 12 years old at the time, and I mounted my camera on a tripod and showed her how to maneuver it back and forth. Last year, she decided she wanted to work the scoreboard, so the program, as it worked out, offered a great way for more parents to get involved. Some take on some coaching jobs, but some—like these two great moms we have—filmed our 2005-06 season. The training is simple—you know, follow the game. And after a basket, pan over to the scoreboard." After a game, which runs about 40 minutes, is shot, he cuts them down to about 28 minutes. "It's not a big deal the way I do it," McCrae says, "if you just stay focused on who shot and who scored."

A native of South Carolina who moved to New York in 1964, McCrae had "always seen stuff shown on BCAT" but didn't know how the programs were produced. "When I had an opportunity to become a producer myself in 2004, I took advantage of it because I've always been interested in cameras.



Robert McCrae, producer of *Camp Friendship Basketball*, a weekly program on BCAT.

You know, I was one of those kids who was the audiovisual monitor in school. My curiosity about doing it grew since I've been taping the basketball games since my son, whose now 23, was involved." Kids become involved in the programs at Camp Friendship most often by word of mouth, and most, McCrae adds with pride, stay involved on some level well into their teens.

Following McCrae's certification as a BCAT producer and the birth of *Camp Friendship Basketball*, all that was left was getting into the swing of it—mastering the weekly grid of taping and editing. He doesn't mind, though, and he adds that "the kids, from what I can tell, as often as they're home on a Saturday morning, are pretty excited about it. It's not only them watching the games, you know, it's the alumni, too. You know, they're all watching the games, analyzing, figuring out who has the advantages." When the 2006 games are broadcast, viewers can expect to see something new: the first female coach. "We're co-ed," McCrae says, "all the way."

**Camp Friendship Basketball can be seen in Brooklyn on BCAT on Saturdays at 11am on Time Warner Cable channel 35, Cablevision channel 68, and streaming live online at [www.bcat.tv/bcat](http://www.bcat.tv/bcat).**



# He'll always be Murray to me

**L**ET ME EXPLAIN. Yes, that's your humble columnist at right flanked by Gavin MacLeod — best known as Captain Merrill Stubing from "The Love Boat" — and Captain Andrew Proctor of the new ship, the Crown Princess.

But there's a perfectly innocent explanation.

To make a short story long, it all started with the city building a \$55-million cruise ship terminal in Red Hook.

The Queen Mary 2 was the first colossal craft to call the Hook home. But this week, the new, 19-deck Crown Princess came a-calling, and Princess Cruises invited me, and a handful of other "journalists," to take the two-day maiden voyage into the Atlantic Ocean.

It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it (actually, it really is a tough job; I get seasick on the Staten Island Ferry).

And this was no pleasure cruise. Sure, I spent hours gorging on buffet-line food, enjoying complimentary cocktails, nap-



**THE BROOKLYN ANGLE** By Gersh Kuntzman

ping for hours and hours, and catching up on my reading, but I also was forced to attend an official briefing from Princess President Alan Bucklelew, who highlighted the many ways in which his company is an industry leader.

"Did you know," he said, "that Princess was the first cruise line to offer 24-hour dining?"

I did not.

"We try to be innovators," Bucklelew said, with pride.

I was enjoying another of Princess's true innovations — a 20-ounce Margarita — when all of a sudden, Gavin MacLeod is walking right towards me.

This is, apparently, the kind of thing that can happen on a cruise ship.

Now, of all the entirely useless things on which I pride myself, none stands out more than my appreciation of the true artistic gifts of Gavin MacLeod.

While other Princess passengers looked at MacLeod and saw the glad-handing, smile-flashing crowd-pleaser who skippered some fictional "Love Boat," I looked at him and saw Murray, the wisecracking cynic MacLeod played on the old "Mary Tyler Moore Show."

So I mentioned it to him. Next thing I know, I'm in a beer hug (good thing I'd taken my Dramamine).

Two days later, I ran into MacLeod again



at the formal christening of the ship and we chatted about the good of days (you know, the ones from two days earlier). But it wasn't really the same.

He had to rush off to be the Master of Ceremonies — Martha Stewart was on hand (see much smaller photo above) to break the traditional champagne bottle and, let's face it, she's nothing without MacLeod — and I had to do my job (which consisted mainly of half-heartedly gobbling free hors-d'oeuvres).

We were like two ships that had passed. I knew the magic was gone. Now, all I have left is this picture.

## Library picks interim head

The Brooklyn Papers

The Brooklyn Public Library put a punctuation mark on the brief Ginnie Cooper era by naming Dionne Mack-Harvin — who started as a mere librarian a decade ago — as its interim executive director this week.

Cooper, who came to Brooklyn just over three years ago after heading a county library system in Oregon, resigned last month amid

complaints that she was ill equipped to run the nation's fifth-largest library system.

Mack-Harvin's appointment at this week's board meeting is effective at the end of this month.

"Dionne has the full support of the board," said Thomas Amon, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "With her background and experience, I'm confident that she is ready to meet the challenges of our organization head-on."

Mack-Harvin, who for the past year has served as the library's chief of staff, started as a

librarian at the Crown Heights branch in 1996.

She'll be replacing the unpopular Cooper, who raised eyebrows when she shut down the Brownsville branch after an employee lost the tip of a finger in an accident that followed rudeness by young patrons. She also drew fire for taking extra vacation time, for which she had to repay the library \$27,000.

After resigning, Cooper became the director of the Washington, D.C. library.

— **Brendan Myśliwiec**



Dionne Mack-Harvin

## Imlay St condo project stalled

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

A politically connected developer hoping to turn a waterfront warehouse in Red Hook into luxury housing has been ordered back to the drawing board.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Lewis ruled that Bruce Batkin, who owns the New York Dock Company building at 180 Imlay St., must reapply for a zoning variance to turn the vacant six-story warehouse into a nine-story condo with a swimming pool on top.

Batkin had already won the variance, but construction was blocked by a lawsuit filed in 2003 by the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce, a coalition of large industrial landowners such as Fairway developer Greg O'Connell and New York Water Taxi owner Tom Fox.

The coalition wants the building to

be saved for industrial uses, including a dock for Fox's own ferries.

The coalition also charged that Batkin got his initial variance after donating \$150,000 to New York City's Olympic bid, a pet cause of the mayor.

Batkin retorted that the coalition was "holding back Red Hook's economy."

Lewis found no evidence of corruption, but her decision was hailed by manufacturers, who are reeling from the explosion in real-estate values in the neighborhood.

"This is a victory for the neighborhood and its business community," said Tom Russo, a Chamber spokesman.

Batkin's spokesman called the decision a "delay."

"This is just an attempt to put off development so the opponents can try and get the buildings for themselves," said the spokesman, George Arz.

## Seek 30-day probation for garbage tickets

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklynites are known for talking trash. But this time, the trash they're talking has drawn the attention of a local councilman.

City Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) wants the Department of Sanitation to stop ticketing homeowners who have

litter on their sidewalks by creating a 30-day probationary period after a first ditty offense.

Currently, there is little flexibility in the rules. If an inspector finds litter on a homeowner's sidewalk during one of his twice-daily inspections — 8-9 a.m. and noon-1 p.m. — the homeowner can be fined from \$100 to \$300, regardless of whose litter it is.

That's how Thomas Mastigiog-

vanni of Bensonhurst got his \$100 summons for litter that he did not create.

"There were two paper cups, two soiled napkins, and one paper bag in front of my house," complained Mastigiogvanni, who lives one block from the busy commercial strip of 18th Avenue.

"You would have to sit on your stoop 24 hours a day to keep up," he added.

Under Yassky's bill, Sanitation would issue warnings — not summonses. If a second inspection 30 days later again revealed filth, Sanitation would then issue a summons.

Yassky was motivated by "a constant flow of complaints [to his office]" about litter summonses, said his spokesman, Evan Thies.

The Department of Sanitation would not comment on Yassky's proposed legislation, but the idea ap-

pealed to some community leaders.

"It sounds like an interesting approach — one that I am sure the Department of Sanitation doesn't like," said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6, which includes much of Yassky's district. "Historically, they've been viewed as an agency that uses enforcement powers to raise revenue for the city, without actual regard for cleanliness."



Paulie Malignaggi (right) ducks a punch from Miguel Cotto Saturday night.

## 'Paunie' does 'Hurst proud

By Zachary Braziller

The Brooklyn Papers

Paulie Malignaggi may not have left the ring Saturday night at Madison Square Garden with the WBO Junior Welterweight championship belt around his waist, but he nonetheless departed a winner.

The champion, undefeated Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico, pounded the pride of Bensonhurst for much of the 12-round bout, leaving Malignaggi battered and fracturing his right orbital bone.

"I'm so disappointed," said Malignaggi, a former U.S. amateur champion, who made his professional debut in 2001. "I wanted to

win this time."

But Malignaggi (21-1), who seemed close to getting knocked out early, fought to the final bell, earning the admiration of the 14,365 pro-Cotto crowd, and his opponent.

"I'm so proud of him," said Lou DiBella, Malignaggi's promoter. "He made an incredible statement of who he is ... I don't think there was a person at the Garden who didn't leave with respect for Paulie."

"This is a kid who's never been knocked out, never been hit and he's in there with someone as good as Cotto," DiBella continued. "He took a beating and he gave some of it back."

Malignaggi was head-butted by Cotto (27-0) in the opening round, opening up a

wide cut below his eye.

"It's the first time I'd ever been cut," Malignaggi said before he was taken to Roosevelt Hospital. He was released on Sunday with no neurological damage, DiBella confirmed.

The blood was getting in my eye. I had trouble adjusting."

It didn't help that Cotto knocked down Malignaggi with a left hook in the second round and sent him to the canvas again in the eighth. Malignaggi did land short, quick, three-punch combinations in the middle rounds, but hurt Cotto for the first — and only — occasion in the ninth when he landed a sharp right hand.

As a result, Cotto was awarded with a unanimous decision.

But it was an eye-opening performance by the cocky and fast-talking Malignaggi on his biggest stage to date. How cocky? In the press conference prior to the fight, the spiky-haired Italian-American brashly said he would win the bout and would "break his [Cotto's] face."

OK, so he didn't do that, but many who watched his performance saw a side in the rising junior welterweight they didn't know existed. For instance, Arturo Gatti, another welterweight known for his ability to be a human punching bag yet keep going, asked DiBella for Malignaggi's number after watching the fight. He wanted to applaud his effort.

"It was a great performance by a young kid," DiBella said.

## SMOKE ON THE WATER

By Sara Vogel

The Brooklyn Papers

With its buzzing open air bars, expansive boardwalk, and laid-back summer atmosphere, Coney Island welcomes just about everyone.

Especially if you're a smoker. The home of the famed Cyclone has the highest number of heavy smokers in Brooklyn, with more than 25,000 people smoking more than half-a-pack per day, according to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

And a whopping 23 percent of Coney residents regularly light up, as opposed to "only" 17 percent of Park Slope, Downtown, and Brooklyn Heights residents.

How did a peninsula of freak shows, a Ferris wheel, and housing projects become a smoker's "paradise?" The Brooklyn Papers sought to find out.

Ironically, the fresh air helps. The boardwalk, unlike other public facilities in town, is not a smoke-free zone. Indeed, it's basically a three-mile-long smoking lounge.

"In the summer, everyone's drinking and smoking," said Chico, a 26-year-old enjoying a cigarette outside Cha Cha's Bar. "The more drinks they get, the more cigarettes they smoke."

But more than the beach-bum attitude accounts for high smoking rates in Coney Island.

The neighborhood's ethnic



"Randy from Seagate" is an 82-year-old lifelong smoker who says it's been hard quitting because his girlfriend is also a smoker.

noses conspicuously when they pass smokers in the street. Rivera called it, "The Park Slope Wave."

"You can see a negative attitude," she said.

Some of that anti-smoking sentiment is trickling beyond the kid-friendly confines of Brownstone Brooklyn to Coney.

"Things are a lot better than they used to be in terms of smoking," said Jerry Menditto, in the gravelly voice, not of a smoker, but of a 32-year Cyclone steward.

"Years ago, we had to tell people not to light up on the ride."

If that's the case, the Health Department and Coney Island Hospital deserve some of the credit. Both offer free nicotine patches, with the hospital offering additional counseling.

The city has distributed all of its 35,000 patch kits. Meanwhile, the hospital, which serves around 1,200 smokers per year, recently distributed 190 patch kits — and in follow-up visits, the hospital found that 34 patients had quit.

"They're getting the message," said Theresa DiPasquale, registered nurse and director of the program.

Even Jaremkio, a classic Coney Island heavy smoker, is trying to break his 36-year habit, picking up his free patches from the city.

But it's unclear how well he's doing. The other day, he proudly rolled up his sleeve to reveal the patches on his arm.

The other arm held a cigarette.

## Carroll Gardens sisters just want to die at home

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

Developers are in such a rush to gentrify Carroll Gardens that they won't even let the old Brooklyn die of natural causes.

Two nearly 90-year-old sisters who have been battling eviction from their family home for more than a year are now facing yet another imminent threat — their Carroll Gardens house has been sold from under their rockers, and the new owner has taken up the eviction fight.

"I asked the owner to let [them] stay until [they] die," said Brent Meltzer, the attorney for Angelina Visconte, 87. But Wayne Wamock, the new owner, refused to let Visconte and her sister Katherine Carmada, 89, die in peace.

Last year, the two watched helplessly as a third sister passed away, and their nephew, who inherited the Cheever Place home, tried to evict them so he could sell it.

But, the great-grandies put up a fight and stayed on.

"The new owner called me for the first time yesterday to say you have to be out," said Carmada last week, as she sat with her sister and friends at a nearby senior center.

"Where can I go? How much rent could I pay? My Social Security check is \$800. They're asking for \$2,000, \$3,000."

In just two generations, Carroll Gardens has undergone a sea



Angelina Visconte and Katherine Carmada are being evicted from their home in Carroll Gardens.

change. Lawyers instead of dockhands fill its brownstones. Front-lawn Virgin Marys have vanished, and the delis on Smith Street, where you could buy fresh mozzarella, are now restaurants serving dock confit.

The bridges to the 20th century can be found every day in a city-funded senior center on Court Street, where Visconte and Carmada take arts-and-crafts classes and, believe it or not, get a plate of excellent ravioli.

"I was born in that house in 1919," said Visconte. "I feel hurt."

But what is a noble fight to some is just a stick in the mud to others. "I made numerous arrangements to move [Carmada]," said her son-in-law. "She's just being stubborn."

Neighbors defend the sisters, asking how anyone could be so lacking in compassion as to boot two old ladies — especially given their advanced age.

"I don't think it's nice at all," said Celeste Gecore, who has known the sisters for a half-century and has coffee and cake every evening with Visconte and Carmada.

Wamock, who bought the house on April 13 for \$11.3 million, insists he's doing what he can to help the sisters find a new place.

Meanwhile, Carmada's time is running out. As her eviction winds through the bureaucracy, "I'm afraid to go home," she said. "Will I find a lock on my door?"



(718) 834-9350

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 17, 2006

# Back to its roots

Artists from Brooklyn, Chicago to play annual hip-hop festival

By Eleazer Gorenstein  
for the Brooklyn Papers

The Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival is back for the second straight year, and this time it promises to be even bigger and better.

Last June's festival took place in Williamsburg's Brooklyn Brewery yard, an intimate setting that still drew over 1,500 people. The site for this year's show shifts to historic and spacious Tobacco Warehouse in DUMBO's Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park on Saturday, June 24.

Performing at the show will be Lupe Fiasco, The Prodigies, Rhymefest, Panacea, Sleepy Brown and two of Brooklyn's own: Maya Azucena and rap legend and festival headline Big Daddy Kane.

"As a Brooklynite, I enjoy opportunities to be associated with my home, and I intend to bring some real fire to the show," said Azucena, who was born and raised in Flatbush. "DUMBO is one of the illest neighborhoods in Brooklyn; it's right on the water and right by the bridge. You can't beat the scenery. Plus, I get to perform with one of the living legends in our world today, a pioneer by the name of Big Daddy Kane."

Kane was born Antonio Hardy on Sept. 10, 1968 in Bed-Stuy. Over the course of his career, he has worked with artists such as Biz Markie, Rudy Ray Moore and Barry White. Kane was part of Marley Marl's Juice Crew during hip-hop's "golden age" of the late 1980s and early 1990s, and is also widely regarded as the man who jumpstarted rapper Jay-Z's career.

Having Big Daddy Kane perform along with many of the rap game's up-and-coming stars exemplifies this year's mission for the Hip-Hop Festival, according to organizer Alma Geddy-Romero, of the Room Service Group.

"We want to blend the old school and the new school," Geddy-Romero said. "Just to kind of present an alternative to the mainstream by showcasing a high quality hip-hop event. It will show the roots of the genre and

also where it's going. So often hip-hop takes a bad rap, but this will show how it is a great thing and can be great for a community, to pull it together."

The event is expected to draw more than double last year's show, and has more civic and municipal support than did last year's. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce have voiced avid support for the festival and its positive potential.

## MUSIC

The Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival will take place June 24, from noon to 8 p.m. at The Tobacco Warehouse, inside Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park at 26 New Dock St. at Water Street in DUMBO. Tickets to the hip-hop festival are free and must be reserved in advance at [www.brooklynbodega.com](http://www.brooklynbodega.com). An e-mail will then be sent back with information about where and when to pick up your ticket. For more information, call the Room Service Group at (718) 408-1151.

Geddy-Romero said. The anticipated growth of the show has led to the need for a permanent home, which Geddy-Romero hopes has been secured.

"With the festival growing every year, we are looking for a home to grow with us, and the Brooklyn Bridge park can be a huge asset for us," Geddy-Romero said.

"The waterfront can grow with us as well for years to come."

Rhymefest is returning to the festival this year. In 2005, the lyricist shared the stage with Brand Nubian, Little Brother and Leela James. With the recent release of his debut single "Brand New" with Kanye West and the follow-up single "Dynamite," Rhymefest is set for the release of his debut album, "Blue Collar."

Rhymefest is one of two artists hailing from Chicago performing at this year's event. Joining him in representing the windy city is Lupe Fiasco.

"Last year, the vibe was off the chain," said Rhymefest. "In Brooklyn, it's such a community vibe. This isn't a show in Manhattan or Long Island, it's just like the neighborhood people come from around the corner and enjoy some good music."

Rhymefest returns with a mission to show the people of Brooklyn, and the hip-hop community as a whole, that there are no boundaries or division when it comes to music. This is a music lover's concert, he said.

"I've been telling my people in Chicago about this show for months; it's all I'm talking about," said Rhymefest. "I know I'm going to bring something that I think is missing in today's world of hip-hop: ballads. Not



**Ain't no half-steppin':** Artists performing at the Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival include (clockwise from top) Big Daddy Kane, Strange Fruit Project, The Prodigies and Rhymefest.

only can us cats from Chicago rap. We entertain, perform and we're lyricists. We're unafraid to let that part of our art show through, and you're going to see that at the Festival."

Rhymefest said that the similarities between Chicago rappers (like himself, Kanye and Lupe Fiasco), and Brooklyn rappers (like Kane, Jay-Z and the late Biggie Smalls) far outweigh the differences.

Big Daddy Kane was a pioneer for rappers across the world who wanted their lyrics to

stand above everything else in their music, said Rhymefest.

"Those guys from Brooklyn like Big Daddy Kane and Biggie, they had the same soul and sensibility that we are trying to develop in Chicago today," said Rhymefest. "That's why this concert is going to be such a source of pride for me. It will show everyone just how hip-hop is supposed to be, coming from two of the best spots for hip-hop music in the world."

## MUSIC

### Girl revolution

On June 23, the revolution comes to Williamsburg. On that Thursday night, "Art Revolution: Girl Style" will present the fruits of the labors of rockin' and artistic teens and tweens at Stain.

Music will be performed by the groups Hellish Relish and Magnolia, comprised of girls, ages 9 to 12, which banded together at the Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls in Downtown Brooklyn.

In addition to the live performances, a short film about teen pregnancy, "Journey to the Unknown," by 16-year-old Lizbeth Mejia, will be screened, and "Through Her Eyes," a photography exhibit by 11 to 17-year-olds, will also be on display.

"Art Revolution: Girl Style," organized by Girls for Gender Equity (GGE), is part of "V-Day: Until the Violence Stops," the two-week festival begun by "Vagina Monologues" playwright Eve Ensler.

"GGE and V-Day's purpose is to foster the ability for girls to speak their minds and speak out against the things they think are wrong in the world," said Mandy Van Deven, a GGE co-director. "And this gives them a space where they can enact that change."

"Art Revolution: Girl Style" convenes at Stain (766 Grand St. at Humboldt Street in Williamsburg) on June 23, from 7-9 p.m. Tickets are free, but call (718) 857-1393 to RSVP. For more information about V-Day, visit [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org).

—Jovana Rizzo

## MUSIC

### African sojourn

Finishing its current season on a stylish note, One World Symphony will travel all the way to Egypt for its final 2006 concert.

Ancient Egypt has caught the eyes (and ears) of composers over the centuries, and One World Symphony's June 23 concert will showcase two of the most famous operas set in North Africa: Handel's "Julius Caesar in Egypt" and Verdi's "Aida."

Handel's "Julius Caesar in Egypt," which had its world premiere in London in 1724, is a splendid vehicle for supremely talented singers; indeed, three of the most celebrated castrati of the day sang at its first performance.

That obviously won't be the case on June 23, but then again it won't have to: OWS conductor Sung Jin Hong has consistently shown an ability to select singers who can handle the music being performed, no matter how challenging. In that respect, the excerpts from "Aida" (which actually had its premiere in Cairo in 1871) should emerge triumphant as well.

Mezzo-soprano Ainsley Ryan (pictured) will sing the role of Sesto in "Julius Caesar in Egypt."

One World Symphony performs Handel and Verdi on June 23 at 8 p.m. at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church, 157 Montague St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. Tickets are \$40, and \$30 for students and seniors. For more information, call (718) 462-7270 or visit [www.oneworldsymphony.org](http://www.oneworldsymphony.org).

—Kevin Filipski

## BOOKS

### Real 'Survivors'

"No signs of help, only chaos and this boat, wrong side up, a few pairs of hands gripping its keel in the dark and cold Atlantic," writes ABC World News Tonight producer and Brooklyn Heights resident Tom Nagorski in his debut nonfiction book, "Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack."

"Miracles on the Water" describes with rich detail a tragic episode from September, 1940. The ocean liner S.S. City of Benares — carrying 90 British children on their way to Canada, fleeing the Nazi blitz — was torpedoed at night by a German submarine. The survivors, crammed into 12 lifeboats, were left drifting for days before being rescued. Confronted with desperate odds, the children performed unthinkable acts of endurance and solidarity.

Nagorski, a master storyteller, weaves together personal accounts with pertinent background. His fast-paced tale is full of drama and compassion. Six decades after the events, he raises questions regarding blame, responsibility, and the lack of an investigation.

The author's impassioned connection to the material stems from his Uncle Bobban, who survived on the last lifeboat to be rescued.

"Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack" (Hyperion, \$24.95) is available for purchase, or can be ordered through local bookstores.

—Alessandro Cassin



Hangtime: A scene from Larry Clark's "Wassup Rockers."

# 'Wassup' Brooklyn?

Boro gets sneak peek of Larry Clark's latest film

By Karen Butler  
for the Brooklyn Papers

Acclaimed filmmaker Larry Clark plans to celebrate the upcoming release of his new skater movie, "Wassup Rockers," at a block party Saturday in Bushwick.

Starting at 4 p.m. at Knickerbocker Avenue and Thames Street, the event is expected to feature food, giveaways, performances by live bands and skaters, as well as a special appearance by skateboarder great Chad Muska. At 8:30 p.m., Clark, the director of "Kids" and "Bully," is scheduled to present

an outdoor screening of his latest cinema verite work. Kico Pedraza, one of the film's stars, is also slated to attend.

Shot in Los Angeles, the R-rated film follows a group of real-life, punk music-loving, Latino teen skaters as they experience culture

See **WASSUP** on page 9

OUR CHICKENS DON'T GET ANTIBIOTICS OR  
ADDITIONAL TIME WHEN TAKING STANDARDIZED TESTS.

HONEST INGREDIENTS. Chipotle.

MONTAGUE B/W COURT & CLINTON



# BROOKLYN

## Neighborhood Dining Guide

### This week: COBBLE HILL

#### Chance

223 Smith St. at Butler Street, (718) 242-1515  
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees \$12-\$18. \*

Owner Ken Li (Park Slope's Yamato and Cobble Hill's Osaka) has a hit with this restaurant that blends French and Chinese cuisines. Open since 2004, Chance has a sleek contemporary exterior that gives way to a polished, playful interior with red lanterns and a bubble wall. Chef Ken Ben-Ari revamped the menu, blending the two cuisines subtly, according to GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry. Among her recommendations are the "Miss Piggy" entree, a pork shank surrounded by wild mushrooms scented with garlic; the seared foie gras appetizer; and the ocean boat of plump dumplings filled with sweet shrimp, lobster meat and sea bass. Don't forget dessert — house-made ice creams and sorbets. Brunch, offering dumplings and green tea pancakes, is served from 10:30 am to 4 pm on weekends. Open for lunch, from noon to 4 pm, on weekdays and everyday for dinner.

#### Dhaka

148 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street, (718) 859-4340  
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees \$12-\$17.55. \*

Opened in March 2005, this Indian restaurant specializes in curries and tandoori, quick-roasted meat and seafood dishes prepared in a traditional clay oven ("tandoor"). Out of that oven come dishes such as shrimp tandoori, large shrimp marinated in herbs and spices and served with spinach and mushrooms. "Dhaka offers a lot of specialty Indian cuisine you won't find in most Indian restaurants," says owner Mohammad Talukder. Talukder recommends the "dampaladi" — a dish much like a pot pie, filled with your choice of meat — or "riza," a curried chicken with cauliflower. Chef Siam also prepares a number of vegetable-based entrees, like the "baingan bharta," a whole eggplant baked and blended with herbs, sautéed onions and tomatoes. A few varieties of bread — some with assorted fillings — are also available. Dhaka's "lunch box to go" offers one meat, seafood or vegetable curry served with basmati rice, flat "naan" bread, cabbage, lentil curry, rice pudding and soda for \$6.95 to \$8.95 — "unbeatable," says Talukder. There's also a "dinner-to-go," including soup, appetizer, an entree, "naan" and rice pudding for \$14.95 — "enough for two people," says Talukder. Free delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

#### Hill Restaurant

229 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 522-2220  
(MC, Visa) Entrees \$8-\$14. \*

Chef-staffed Hill is an unpretentious, friendly and inexpensive cafe serving bacon and eggs alongside veggie-friendly fare like a grilled, marinated foil sandwich in soy and rice-based bread. The menu includes entrees, avocado and arugula. Salads are numerous and heaped with fresh, market produce. The chicken schnitzel and beef brisket should please carnivores. For dessert, try the vanilla mousse or the "mabli" (a pudding flavored with rose), baked from a traditional Israeli recipe handed down by owner-chef Rafi Hasid's mother. Hasid boasts that Hill has "the best burger and chicken sandwich in the neighborhood." Hill's greenhouse patio and garden can be enjoyed year-round, with outdoor seating in warm weather. In winter the glass doors and skylight are closed to keep diners cozy. Brunch is served weekdays, from 9 am to 4 pm. Delivery available. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

#### Joya

215 Court St. at Wyckoff Street, (718) 222-3484  
(Cash or personal checks only) Entrees \$6.50-\$7.95.

Kind goodhearted partners Ariel Aparicio and Andrew Jerni brought inexpensive, scrumptious Thai food to Court Street. The restaurant features a modestly priced menu and a dark — but chic — atmosphere. The hipster vibe is reinforced by DJs spinning an array of energetic, ambient tunes on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The "kang mao" is a not-too-spy chicken and potato coconut curry, a neighborhood favorite. The "pad Thai" is Joya's signature dish, but Jerni also suggests the (juicy special) mango salad and grilled skirt steak. There are nightly fresh fish specials and desserts are fun — fried banana rolls or coconut sticky rice with mango. Outdoor dining on the rear patio is available, weather permitting. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

\* = Full review available at

**Brooklyn**  
papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Hill Restaurant owner-chef Rafi Hasid.

#### Quercy

242 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 243-3151  
(AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees \$14.50-\$28. \*

Ooh la la — French food cooked by a real Frenchman in Cobble Hill. Chef-owner Jean-François Frayre boasts that his cassoulet (a casserole of duck and beans) is "one of the best in the city." Other classic country dishes include foie gras and beef bourguignon (a beef stew) — perfect comfort food. Winter specials also include venison, quail and a variety of soups, and in summer, Quercy adds soft-shell crabs to the menu. Quercy offers weekend lunch with broche french toast, omelets or grilled lamb sausage with sautéed apples. Quercy serves dinner daily, brunch on the weekend and lunch Tuesday through Sunday.

#### Siam Garden

772 Court St. at Bergen Street, (718) 596-3300  
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees \$6.95-\$15.95.

Opened in 1985, Siam Garden offers traditional Thai cuisine using authentic ingredients and cooking techniques, and the menu includes dishes from the four regional styles of Thai cooking for a culinary tour of Thailand. For an appetizer, try the "pretty packages" (steamed dumplings stuffed with a blend of ground chicken, shrimp, water chestnuts and herbs), deep-fried vegetable spring rolls, or "tau hoo toun" (fried bean curd served with zesty peanut sauce). Entrees include a variety of curries and sautéed meats, including the basil duck (crispy duck topped with onion, scallion, basil, chili and garlic sauce) and the classic pad Thai — fried noodles with bean sprouts, scallion and chopped peanuts. Dishes can be made for mild, medium and very spicy tastes. Open daily for dinner only.

#### Tripoli Restaurant

156 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street, (718) 596-5800  
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees \$8-\$16.

Enter this Atlantic Avenue landmark and you'll swear you're skimming the southern shores of ancient Lebanon. Maybe there's a stretch, but an impressive mural of Tripoli's coast befits the spacious interior of this Lebanese eatery, established back in 1973. Tripoli Restaurant is commendable for its "Couscous Lebanon," or squash stuffed with ground lamb, rice and pine nuts, cooked in a yogurt sauce with mint, and its "Selek El Bouibou," or black-eyed peas and celery with sautéed onions, garlic and coriander. Dessert options include baklava and milk pudding. Tripoli's downtown room is available for private parties, and they'll help you book a live Arabic band and belly dancer. Open Wednesday through Monday for lunch and dinner. Closed Tuesday.

#### Yemen Cafe

176 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street, (718) 634-9533  
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees \$8-\$14.

Located on the second floor of a building that also houses a barber shop, this cozy and casual Yemenite restaurant, now open for over 17 years, will overwhelm you with enticing aromas as soon as you walk through the door. Offering a large variety of appetizers, soups, salads and lamb, chicken or fish entrees, each table will also be served a large circle of pita bread to dip into whatever savory sauce or stew you've decided to order (if you're able to decide). According to manager Yehia Alkhalil, an especially popular dish is the Yemeni house "salta," a stew of mixed vegetables served with lamb or chicken and "houbeh" — a whipped, milk, fenugreek-flavored sauce — and bread. He also recommends the roasted lamb tenderloin roasted meat served with rice. Catering available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to [www.brooklynpapers.com](http://www.brooklynpapers.com) on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at [Curtis@brooklynpapers.com](mailto:Curtis@brooklynpapers.com).



# What a party

## Chefs, authors, models, artists raise \$20G in DUMBO for less-fortunate New Yorkers

By Tina Barry  
For The Brooklyn Papers

So many factors go into a great party. It takes someone with good organizational skills, the right venue, terrific food and booze and a convivial blend of people for an event to soar. All of those things came together on June 13, when many of the borough's restaurants and wineries, artists and writers, fashion designers, models and partygoers, gathered for a spirited arts festival.

The event was "Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation 2006," a benefit that helps fund organizations committed to addressing homelessness and long-term solutions to hunger and poverty.

Randee Braham of Pass It On Public Relations in Park Slope served as the chairperson.

"It was a great cultural event. Everyone I looked, people were smiling. The sponsors I spoke to said they got as much back from the crowd as they gave. All and all it was just a wonderful time," Braham said the day after the party.

The Tobacco Warehouse — a huge, open-air brick structure, that was covered with a tent for the evening's festivities inside the Empire Fulton-Ferry State Park in DUMBO — served as a hip setting.

For "VIPs" (those who purchased a ticket to the event for \$125, or \$50 more than the regular admission, and were allowed to enter an hour before the general public), a tent with a flower-becked entrance served as a private club. Inside, attendees lounged on silk-covered chairs



(Top row, left to right) At Tuesday's "Taste of the Nation" benefit for Share Our Strength, Habana Outpost of Fort Greene served up a saucy corn; Brooklyn Heights's Henry's End offered bites of mustard seed-crusted tuna; and Park Slope's Chocolate Room offered chocolate layer cakes. (Above) The event was held at the open air Tobacco Warehouse in DUMBO.

and placed their cocktails on low tables strewn with gardenias. Partygoers nibbled on sushi from Blue Ribbon in Park Slope, while sipping glasses of crisp Brut from Horse Classic Vintage Brut 2001 from Chamer Industries. After the sushi, they cleared their palates with Fritz Knipschildt's classic chocolate truffles offered by Park Slope's The Chocolate Room.

Most of the fun transpired in the huge, main area, where a catwalk was erected centerstage. Midway through the evening, boxy models shook their bodies in fashions by Big Girls

United, designed for "thick and sexy ladies." Brooklyn Industries (with several locations in the borough, and two Fifth Avenue shops in Park Slope), Razor for men, and Serene Rose (who supplied garments by Shava Christopher Kelley's "Christopher" label) contributed outfits for the runway.

Of course, there was great food. More than 25 restaurants contributed dishes. Chef Julie Farias, of Fort Greene's Ici, sprinkled big grains of crunchiness salt over her chicken liver "schmidt" for a delectable snack. Marc Lahm of Henry's End in Brooklyn

Heights cut the richness of raw tuna with a sinus clearing dab of mustard oil. Chef Amanda Freitag of Park Slope's Sette Enoteca e Cucina, topped a chicken fitter, called "panelle," with a rich, sweet and sour eggplant caponata. Paul Vicino of Five From in DUMBO offered messy-but-delicious lamb ribs with mint chutney.

And that was just some of the offerings on the savory side of the menu. Thomas Ferlesch of Thomas Beisl in Fort Greene, served a warm farmer cheese strudel with vanilla sauce and berries. Chocolate lovers snacked on bittersweet brownies from Red Hook's Baked. There were slices of Junior's cheesecake from the famous Downtown Brooklyn restaurant, and rice pudding with summer fruit from Taco Chulo in Williamsburg.

Attendees could get their groove on with a nice booze buzz courtesy of Soda Bar in Prospect Heights, which poured a refreshing mint julep made with Woodford Reserve bourbon, and The Lighthouse Tavern in Park Slope's sweet "watermelon whisky smashers," made with Jack Daniel's.

Local businesses were generous with their action donations. Chef Saul Bolton offered lucky bidders the "Saul Tasting Menu for Two," a dinner paired with wines at his cozy Smith Street eatery.

A makeshift gallery was erected to display local artists' work and several authors, including Crown Heights author Joel Derfner (Random House's "Gay Haku"), were on hand signing copies of their latest books.

Braham didn't have an exact figure for ticket sales, but she estimated the event brought in \$20,000 (not including bids from the auction). One hundred percent of the monies go to organizations like City Harvest and God's Love We Deliver that offer aid in the form of food and education to low-income individuals.

At the end of the evening, the sky had turned a pinkish hue and the lights of the Brooklyn Bridge twinkled. It was a fitting finale for a great party held for such an important cause.

For more information about Share Our Strength, visit [www.strength.org](http://www.strength.org).

# New chick in town

The latest arrival on ever-changing Myrtle Avenue is Los Pollos III, which had its grand opening on May 18. Among the VIPs who welcomed their new neighbor were Dr. Thomas F. Schutte, president of Pratt Institute and chair of the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership, and Azola O'Neil, representing state Sen. Velmaette Montgomery. These and other Brooklyn community officials nibbled on half-priced margaritas and appetizers while tapping their feet to mariachi music.

The proprietor of Myrtle Avenue's newest eatery is Armando Zumba. This is the fifth Mexican and Latin restaurant that the Ecuadorian entrepreneur has opened in the past 11 years, and the third Los Pollos. Los Pollos I and II are in Park Slope and Sunset Park. Zumba credits his Mexican wife Flavio for creating the restaurant's dishes.

"Her cooking is the reason we started the restaurants," he says. "We opened our newest place in Clinton Hill because many of the customers who visit us at Los Pollos II in Park Slope are from that area."

Like its predecessors, the eatery will serve its renowned, beautifully garnished birds (pictured), but and juicy off the rosetense's spit. (Los Pollos means "little chickens" in Spanish, so a good hen is a necessity.) Other Mexican specialties that can be enjoyed in the brick-walled, wood-furnished dining room, or at the sidewalk cafe, include guacamole, soft tacos and fajitas, and says Zumba, one of their most popular side dishes, fried plantains in garlic sauce.

Los Pollos III (499 Myrtle Ave. at Ryerson Street in Clinton Hill) accepts MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$7.95-\$11.95. The restaurant serves brunch daily, from 11:30 am to 4 pm, lunch and dinner daily. Delivery available. For more information, call (718) 636-6125 or 636-6283.

— Tina Barry

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## WASSUP...

Continued from page 7

clashes from South Central to Beverly Hills.

Clark says the idea for the film came to him about three years ago, while he was in Los Angeles for a magazine photo shoot to promote his previous skate film, "Ken Park."

"I came out here with ('Ken Park' star) Tiffany Limos, and I was going to photograph her with some of the kids from 'Ken Park,' but they weren't around, so I said, 'Well, let's find some skaters.'" The 63-year-old Oklahoma native told GO Brooklyn.

"And we went down to Venice Beach and met Kico and Porky who were about 13 years old and looked totally different—all raggedy and their shoes were falling apart and their boards had no pop at all, but they had this style."

The filmmaker says he and Limos struck up a conversation with the engaging teens who offered to take them to meet the rest of their friends in South Central. After a few days of photographing them with Limos all over L.A. and Hollywood, Clark says he began to develop the concept for his film.

"We got to know their story—that they had to fight to be who they are," he explained. "They're not wearing baggy clothes and dressed like gangsters; they have to fight just to be kids. I thought that was really interesting—that the peer pressure in the ghetto was stronger than the peer pressure anywhere else because they are all the age when we can try out different guises and be a punk rocker one day and a gangster the next and a death metal head the next. That's the age when you



**Teen spirit:** "Wassup Rockers" director Larry Clark (right) said the cast of Latino skaters featured in his film battled to overcome violence and racism in their real lives.

can see what's comfortable for you, and these kids didn't even have that."

Clark says that before he actually started work on the film, he spent a year getting to know the teens—most of whom were fans of his controversial 1995 cult classic, "Kids"—and building a relationship with them based on trust.

"The first half of the film is basically recreations of things that happened to them, their stories that they told me, plus things that I saw when I was out there," he recalled. "It kind of wrote itself, because it's their stories."

The second half of the film was made up, crafted simply to give the boys an adventure outside South Central, Clark adds.

"I just started tripping one after-



noon, saying, 'Well, this is funny, then what would happen?' And it turns out that I'm mixing all these genres," he said. "It starts out foremost as a documentary and then recreating their lives and then there is this fantasy-adventure-chase-action-crazy thing. But somehow it all works together."

As much as he enjoyed making the film and working with the youths,

Clark admits there were some rough patches along the way. A 19-year-old skater, who was supposed to be in the film, was gunned down just before principal photography began.

"I included that in the beginning of the film just to show what a dangerous place it is to grow up," he noted.

The filmmaker also says he and his rag-tag cast were chased from the pristine grounds of Beverly Hills High by police.

"I see skaters there all the time... It's a famous skating spot," he said. "I took the kids there to show them the spot [he would use in the film] because they had never been to Beverly Hills High, and the cops would not let the kids go. I showed him my Directors Guild of America card and said: 'Look, I'm making a movie here; it's all permitted. I'm just showing the location today.'"

But, the officer, whom Clark describes as being a dead ringer for Robert Patrick—the badge-carrying villain in "Terminator 2"—refused to listen, instead detaining the kids and slapping them with tickets.

"Latino kids from South Central anywhere near Beverly Hills? It was totally racist," Clark said, adding that the overall effect of starring in the film has been positive for the underprivileged—yet talented—youths, instilling in them new-found senses of confidence and self-worth.

"It will give them a lot of opportunity and it does open up the world for them and makes them feel good about themselves," observed Clark. "Now they know they're worth something. I just watched them open up and blossom. I think that's a big change; that they really see that they're OK."

The "Wassup Rockers" Free-For-All Block Party is being presented by First Look Studios, in association with Skate Park Association USA, a 10-year-old, non-profit group dedicated to promoting the safe practice of skateboarding and biking.

### CORRECTION

In the May 20 issue of GO Brooklyn, the photographer credit for "Lookin' for love" was incorrect. Rachel B. Schwartz took the photo. We regret the error.

## 100 Wine Tips

### My Best Buys for June

By Darrin Siegfried

Is there a business that can seem snootier than the wine business? You know what I mean: that dreaded "wine snob" attitude that some shops seem to thrive on? Some clerk finds out that you aren't conversant in, oh, let's say the different soils of the right bank of the Dordogne River and he gives you "Are you sure you're ready for a Bordeaux?" Give me a break! This is just so sad, because wine people whom I deal with, the grape growers, wine makers and importers I buy from are not like that at all! They're the kind of people who would love to sit down and have a glass of wine with, and every one of them detests that phony "wine snob" attitude as much as you and I do.

Every month I taste more than 200 wines, searching out the real values for you, and one way I bring some of my favorites to you is in my Best Buys selection: four delicious wines that I can usually sell for less than \$10 each that will taste like you paid more for them. Sometimes, one may be a wine that usually sells for \$3, 4 or even 5 dollars more, but I've bought a big enough shipment to bring down the price. Sometimes one may be the end of a vintage, drinking well, but that the wholesaler needed to move out to make room for an incoming shipment. Another may be a new find: a wine that I've just come across that is delicious and I can sell for a song! What remains constant is that every one of these Best Buys is a wine that I drink myself. The wine-ups are my own, too. I tell you what I think of the wines, and what you can expect from them. No "wine speak," just plain English. Terrific wines, great prices...and no attitude!

#### Darrin's Best Buys for June

**Condessa de Leganza, Sauvignon Blanc**—Now, this is what a crisp, refreshing wine should taste like! Straw yellow in color, the wine has beautiful citrus aromas of grapefruit and orange rind. Silky and soft in the mouth with tropical fruit flavors and perfectly balanced bright acidity. Perfect "as is," this wine is a delight to drink with fish, shellfish and chicken. Try it with shrimp risotto! **\$9.95**

**Caldora, Trebbiano d'Abruzzo**—Our good friend Jodi Stern imports this wine, and we just love it! Made from Trebbiano with a splash of Malvasia for aroma and complexity, you'll find an enchanting bouquet of orange blossoms, Bartlett pears and peaches. Nothing hot or heavy here, just plenty of the kinds of fresh, light flavor that we look for in a white wine when the weather is hot and the summer sun is high. **\$8.95**

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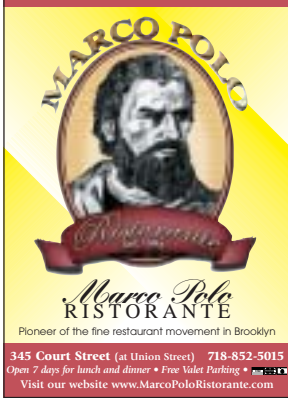
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June 17, 2006

# Carnival techniques

Brownsville native recalls the sadness and joy of life as a son of Polish immigrants in off-Broadway show

By Jovana Rizzo  
for The Brooklyn Papers

A few from Brooklyn is charming Manhattan. After appearing on Broadway, performing as a vocalist in the Rainbow Room, and touring worldwide as Ringo in "Beethoven," writer and performer Jake Ehrenreich tells his story as the child of Holocaust survivors in his off-Broadway musical comedy, "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn."

"I have done a lot of different performances. Broadway, Yiddish theater, and my own rock 'n' roll gigs. With my Jewish work, I was always telling my parents' story," Ehrenreich told GO Brooklyn via telephone. "But then I thought, I know I'm not alone here. I lived a regular American kid's life, with a twist. That story wasn't being told anywhere."

Ehrenreich, now 50, grew up in Brownsville with his parents, originally from Poland, and two older sisters. The importance of family is a theme throughout the show, and the audience meets his family through memories, Yiddish songs backed by a quartet of musicians and singers, and projected family snapshots.

"The show was only in production for two weeks. The American Theatre for Actors is a smaller space and a little challenging, but I wanted to get the show up and see if people came," recalled Ehrenreich. "I thought to myself, 'Will people really find this interesting and amusing, or am I just nuts?' People loved it. The run is sold out."

Since wrapping the sold-out run at the American Theatre, "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn" began performances on June 7 in its new home, Manhattan's Lambs Theatre.

"The Lambs Theatre is actually my favorite off-Broadway theatre," said Ehrenreich. "It has a long history. It's



Flashback at 50: At the Lambs Theatre, writer-performer Jake Ehrenreich, 50, incorporates family photos into his autobiographical play "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn."

very exciting and funny how your dreams start to come true."

Part of the beauty of "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn" lies in the audience, who come to feel like they are part of Ehrenreich's family, if only for two hours. Many people come to the show to embrace nostalgia about their childhood. The first question Ehrenreich asks is "Who's from Brooklyn?" causing him in almost every row to shout out their neighborhood. Even the set is reminiscent of Ehrenreich's stoop in Brownsville, and he bounces a red-rib-

ber ball to ignite memories of every one's favorite spot, stickball.

"I'm always fascinated by who comes," he said. "The show speaks to people who are more like me. They like the show because there's Yiddish; they recognize my journey from their own children; and they know my parents. As soon as I bounce the red rubber ball, they crack up because they remember."

Audience members quickly become entranced by Ehrenreich's unstoppable energy and charisma. He jumps from

telling heartfelt stories, to playing the drums, to cracking jokes about family members — and audience members alike.

But you don't have to be Jewish to appreciate Ehrenreich's story. "My director [John Hubert] said to me, 'This is not only a Jewish story; it's an immigrant story, an American story.' And I think it's true," he recalled. "Most kids that came over to America were embarrassed of their parents, and just wanted to be American, like I was."

In the show, Ehrenreich talks of loving popular music and especially baseball — he's a Mets fan — while growing up because he wanted to fit in. "If you're coming to see a standard musical comedy, you'll be confused. My show is a person telling his honest story in a funny and loving way."

The musical comedy, which opened on April 10, has touched many lives, proving to be therapeutic for both the audience and the performer.

"People often tell me their stories after the show, and say it reminded them of their own lives. That is the greatest part, knowing I am touching people emotionally, that I am really speaking to them," said Ehrenreich. "There has been a flow of people telling their friends and family about the show. The word is spreading, and there is a healing going with it."

Although the audience shares many laughs with Ehrenreich as he pokes fun at his bar mitzvah pictures and impersonates a Catskills comedian, there is a serious side to his story.

"I could have made this a really sad show," he said. "Six million Jewish people killed in the Holocaust is a big number. But to take a look at one family and understand the ramifications is much easier. I tell the truth in my show, but also talk about finding the joy in life, which is really the lesson. I work very hard to find the joy in my life while still dealing with the difficult stuff."

Ehrenreich now lives upstate in Monroe with his wife, Lisa, and 8-year-old son, Joseph ("Dovy"). "Doing eight shows a week is hard, because I am away from my family," he explained. "If they offered me the lead in 'Jersey Boys,' I wouldn't take it."

Although it has required sacrifices such as these, Ehrenreich has been rewarded with the open-ended run of "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn" at the Lambs Theatre.

"I'm like the last of the Mohicans," said Ehrenreich. "There are few people my age who still have parents who are survivors. No one will tell this story again, so I'm going to tell it until people don't want to hear it anymore."

# Future archaeology

Controversial artwork, 'Man from Branchville,' is highlight of BWAC's Pier Show in Red Hook

By Rebecca Migdal  
for The Brooklyn Papers

"Transformations," the 2006 edition of the Pier Show coordinated by the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition in Red Hook, features the work of hundreds of local artists. A few of the pieces are well worth the trip, but visitors will have to sift through a lot of material to find the gems, such as Janice Mauro and Joanne Pagano Weber's narrative installation, "The Man From Branchville."

An abundance of clown paintings, photo-shopped gag shots, hippie kitch and cloying, gift-shoppy floral dioramas, all optimistically priced, lie in wait to torment art lovers at the Pier Show.

For those who soldier on, there are rewards: Clarissa Talve's photographs are reminiscent of Diane Arbus, as is David Vigon's arresting large-scale photograph of a boy grimacing in a beachfront tourist-trap parking lot while Melanie Martino's exquisite paper collages have a flair for the perfect accident, not unlike that of Dadaist Kurt Schwitters.

Luis Rojas's allegorical religious paintings stand out from the crowd, resplendent with beads, sequins and embroidery: "Transformation of Lucifer: The Kiss" is both boldly visionary and obsessively naive. The biggest seller of the show is abundantly clear: Ed Rosko's Lichtenstein-esque, screen-printed metal reliefs had already been plundered by collectors by the end of opening day.

out, is the subject of research by fictional NYU archaeology professor Dr. Jean Verton, circa 6000 AD. The "remains" on the exam table are accompanied by associated "artifacts" and a wall of detailed drawings and curatorial explanations.

The "Man From Branchville," states one text, is one of the doomed "Elites," a class of corporate technocrats who "rose

to supreme power, first by taking over world governments, which they considered impediments to business." Protected by "contextaron," an indestructible metal alloy that eventually destroys everything it touches, the Elites "survived" disastrous environmental conditions that wiped out all the Earth's cities. They perpetuated themselves as

DNA chips, digital personalities that could randomly access pre-recorded memories and experiences. The Elites gradually constructed artificial bodies and encased them in contextaron, and mega DNA chips were housed in the "brain" (grain area) of each.

A human wannabe from a lost civilization, "The Man From Branchville" is "studied" in the richly detailed technical drawings explaining its functional parts. The mysterious Styrofoam "artifacts" that lie alongside the figure are identified as "Dog," "Maid," "Playstation" and so on, also explained in detail in the drawings. A map shows us the world of the Elites where vast continental regions are given labels like "Waste Management," "Microsoft Sea" and "Time Warner Management."

The installation is the first collaborative project by Pagano Weber, an artist, writer and designer, and sculptor Mauro. The two artists "met in the first hour of the first class on the first day" at Fashion Institute of Technology, says Pagano Weber, "and we've been friends ever since."

Thirty years later, when given an opportunity to create an installation in a sequestered space in a Branchville, Conn. gallery, the two friends decided to "do something fun together."

Mauro began by constructing the contents of a futuristic tomb discovery: the figure of the man and the artifacts. Each object Mauro created was then carefully drawn and labeled by Pagano Weber, who also wrote the back-story and texts for the installation.

According to Pagano Weber, the artists didn't set out to include social comment in the piece.

"Whether you intend it or not, the issues that are under your skin will come out," she says.

"There was a lot of controversy at the gallery, in the community of Branchville at the unveiling of the installation, says Mauro. One local man was offended by the class politics of the piece, Mauro claims, and shouted, "If it wasn't for us, you people wouldn't have a way of life."

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Tomb raiders: Artists Janice Mauro and Joanne Pagano Weber collaborated on their narrative installation, "The Man from Branchville," in which the remains of a figure are displayed on a lab table.

"It turned out to be more serious than we ever thought," says Pagano Weber. "[But] we can't take ourselves too seriously, even though it's a serious issue. My idea isn't any more important than anybody's; it's a conversation... no matter which side of the argument you're on. If the piece makes you have that conversation, I'm doing something."

The political edge to the humor in "The Man From Branchville" might offend those who prefer their art cleansed of opinion or social agenda. But for those in search of an art-viewing experience that rewards investigation, Mauro and Pagano Weber have contributed a unique and engaging piece to this season's BWAC offerings.

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## B-day built for a teen

**T** EEN SPIRIT TURNED 15 last week. Smartmom knew enough not to suggest a party, but she did ask if he wanted to invite some friends over.

"No, thanks," he said. Dinner at Belleville? Maybe he'd like to treat some friends to steak fries at his favorite Slope restaurant.

"No, thanks," he said again. Okay, how about a nice dinner with the family?

"No, I'm fine," he said. Smartmom was getting frustrated, but she tried to stay cool. Finally, it was decided: good food, immediate family, and no friends (too embarrassing). Keep it simple and don't bug me. He agreed to let Beautiful Smile (their baby-sitter and so much more) prepare her delicious meatloaf and mashed potatoes.

And there was to be no cake. "You know I hate cake," he told Smartmom. Birthdays are way uncool when you're 15. Forget the party, forget the fuss. And yet, the message is mixed: Get out of my way, but, hey, where are my presents?

"I'd like a left-handed acoustic guitar, if we can afford it," he offered. "But that's all. And only if you can afford it." Secretly Smartmom was thrilled that Teen Spirit felt too old for a birthday party. Surely, that's a rite of passage as significant as learning to tie his shoelaces, scrambling an egg, or walking to Met Food to pick up milk and orange juice.

All are small, important steps in the journey toward adulthood. And for Smartmom, these milestones provoked mixed emotions — mostly happiness and relief, but also longing for the days when he needed her more. Or at least he admitted to needing her more.

But she sure as hell doesn't miss all the stress and mess (not to mention the money, time, and energy) that went into creating Teen Spirit's birthday parties. And why, she now wonders, was it so important that they create the most fabulous homemade birthday party imaginable?

1. He was their first and they didn't know better.  
2. They did it for love.  
3. They were proving something to themselves and others.  
4. They were crazy.

**I** N THE EARLY DAYS with Teen Spirit, Hepcat and Smartmom seemed driven to prove that they were the most creative parents alive. They may not have been able to afford private school, sleep-away camp or a co-op, but they could sure give their kid one hell of a birthday party. They also did it to improve Teen Spirit's status among his friends (now Smartmom is really outgrowing herself). His friends (and their parents) would surely be impressed by these extravaganzas. Why, he would become known as the kid with the great birthday parties. Smartmom and Hepcat were, in a sense, giving

## SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

him social credibility that would lead to increased popularity, which would lead to...

Only the best for their boy. When Teen Spirit turned six, Smartmom and Hepcat "produced" a Beatles carnival complete with Ringo Ring-Toss, Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds mural painting, and Beatles Name that Tune.

When he turned seven, soon after the release of the first Harry Potter book, and years before the movies and Harry Potter merch, they staged a Harry Potter carnival with make your own wands, Pin the Tail on Hedwig, a Quidditch-type game on top of Teen Spirit's loft bed, and potion fruit shakes.

Later on, there was a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" party, a video-making party, a Matrix-Reloaded party, and an artsy trip to the Museum of Cartoon Art and Comics.

Smartmom, like so many of her friends in the mid-1990s, throwing a party at a place like Power Play was akin to feeding a child Gerber's baby food rather making your own or choosing formula over the breast.

But by the time the Oh So

Feisty One came along, Hepcat and Smartmom were very "been there, done that" about homemade birthday parties and OSFO has had numerous parties at The Dance Studio, Power Play, and even a bowling alley.

For her ninth birthday, she and two friends (and Smartmom) had a spa party/sleep-over at the Brooklyn Marriott. Smartmom and Hepcat didn't love her any less.

They just didn't have it in them anymore to do it home-made.

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# BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

## Cheaper by the dozen

### Former Cyclones haven't found way to Mets

By Ed Shakespeare

The Brooklyn Papers

Where have you gone, Scott Kazmir? A Cyclone Nation turns its lonely eyes to you.

Drafted in the first round in 2002, the feisty left-hander made his professional debut with Brooklyn that year. But all Mets fans know what happened next: In the middle of the 2004 season, Kazmir traded to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays for right-hander Victor Zambrano and lefty Bartolome Fortinato.

Reaction to the trade can't be printed in the King's English, so as they say in the Vatican, res ipsa loquitur (the thing speaks for itself): Zambrano's efforts (10-14 lifetime as a Met) have been disastrous, while Kazmir is now one of the best young lefties in baseball, sporting a 7-4 record, with a 3.38 ERA for the Devil Rays.

Mets fans are equally as enraged by what happened to Mike Jacobs, who was a Brooklyn hero from his very first game in the Cyclones' inaugural season (he hit a walk-off sacrifice fly).

Jacobs had made a record-setting debut late in the 2005 season for the Mets, becoming the first major league player to homer in each of his first four games. He spent most of September hitting homers for the Amazin's.

That's probably why he's now wearing a Florida Marlins uniform. The kid was too good for his own good, and was included in the deal that brought Carlos Delgado to New York.

This season, Jacobs is hitting .259 with nine dingers. Losing Jacobs and Kazmir still sticks in the craw like a piece of a ballpark frank before a good flossing. And this doesn't help either: The New York Yankees, who have a reputation for giving away homegrown talent on the cheap in favor of the likes of Ken Phelps, now have four former Staten Island Yankees — Robinson Cano, Chien-Ming Wang, Andy Phillips and Melky Cabrera — toiling in pinstripes in the Bronx.

With Brooklyn's June 20 season opener at home against those Yankees looming, it's a good time to look at the other 10 talented former Cyclones who made it to the Big Leagues. Only one, Brian Bannister, is a Met — but he's on the injured reserve list.

\* Danny Garcia, a member of Brooklyn's inaugural squad, was the first Cyclone to make the majors. The in-



Original Cyclone Mike Jacobs, seen here hitting a home run during his all-too-brief Met tenure last season, is now with the Florida Marlins.

fielder made his Mets debut on September 2, 2003. Garcia's number 6 is displayed at Keyspan Park as a tribute to him — but now he toils for the Columbus Clippers, a Yankees farm team, where he's

batting .220.

\* Matt Watson did a brief rehab stint with the Cyclones in 2003. He made the major leagues with the Mets nine days after Garcia, and has remained a big-leaguer, albeit in

Japan. Watson now plays for Chiba Lotte in the far far far Eastern league.

\* Lenny DiNardo, a popular left-hander on the inaugural Cyclones, made the majors in 2004 — but with the Boston

Red Sox. The Mets left him unprotected in the 2003 Rule V draft.

Small satisfaction here: DiNardo was part of the Red Sox 2004 World Championship season. He's still on the Sox, where he's 1-2 with a 7.11 ERA.

\* Righty Franklin Nunez pitched for Brooklyn in 2003, but later signed as a free agent with Tampa Bay in 2004, making his big league debut with the Devil Rays that August. He's now pitching for the Triple A Richmond Braves, where he has a 1-3 record.

\* Joe Hietpas could turn out to be a modern Moonlight Graham, the famed New York Giants outfielder who played half an inning, yet never got an at-bat. As a result, he has no stats, making him a ghost (whose story was a key plot point in Field Of Dreams).

Hietpas, who caught for the Cyclones in 2002, has bounced around the Mets farm system ever since, but he did catch an inning with the major league Mets on the last day of the 2004 season. Like Graham, he did not get a chance to bat. Hietpas is currently batting .143 — yet remains in the Met system at Triple A Norfolk.

\* Justin Huber, a 2001 Cyclone catcher, made his major league debut with Kansas City in 2005, and the Australian was 2 for 10 for Kansas City earlier this season before being sent to the minors this month.

\* Another inaugural Cyclone, Angel Pagan, broke into the major leagues with the Chicago Cubs this season. The outfielder was hitting .263 in 19 at-bats and is now on the 15-day disabled list.

\* Right-hander Yunesiro Petit, a member of the 2003 Cyclones, is a teammate of Jacob's the Marlins. Petit is pitching in relief and has a 0-1 record with a 7.36 ERA.

\* Brian Bannister, a 2003 Cyclone, broke into the majors this season with the Mets, and was 2-0 with a 2.89 ERA when he injured his right hamstring. The righty is currently on the disabled list.

\* Just as this issue went to press, Bobby Keppel, a righty pitcher who hurled in Brooklyn in 2003, became the 12th former 'Clone to reach the show. He's already pitched a half-dozen innings in relief for the Kansas City Royals, and is now 0-2 with a 3.04 ERA.

There is still hope, however, for more Cyclones to join the Mets before they get tossed aside or traded away. Lefty Evan MacLane, a Cyclone in 2003 and 2004, is in Triple A Norfolk, where he is 6-0 with a 2.11 ERA.

Regardless of whether MacLane or any of the 2006 Cyclones — stay in the Mets organization, history shows that when you go to a Cyclones game, you are seeing the future of baseball.

"You never know who will make the majors. I've seen third-string minor-league catchers eventually make the big leagues," said Cyclones' radio announcer Warner Fusselle.

You never know, but it's fun to guess. See you at the ballpark.

Ed Shakespeare's column, "The Play's the Thing," along with a package of news and features, will run every week during the Cyclones season.

## Park voice canned

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

The voice of Keyspan Park has gone silent.

Dom Alagia, whose courtly "Now batting for the Cyclones..." has filled the stadium by the sea since the Brooklyn Cyclones' first game in 2001, will not be returning. The Brooklyn Papers learned this week.

"I've done it for five years, but they tell me they want to try something different," Alagia said. "What? Is there some kind of term limit?"

Alagia said his firing was ironic because he got the job in the first place because he's not "a screamer," he said.

Unlike other pro baseball stadiums, the Cyclones have typically chosen history over hysteria in the announcing booth, allowing other charac-

ters, like former cheerleader "Party Marty," or mascots, like Sandy the Seagull, whip up the fans.

So that's why Alagia is so stunned to be packing up his vocal chords.

They used to tell me they liked the way I did the announcements — very professional, like [Yankee Stadium announcer] Bob Sheppard."

Sheppard, Alagia quickly pointed out, has been introducing the players at Yankee Stadium since 1951.

"No term limit for him," Alagia said.

A spokeswoman for the Cyclones did not return calls for comment.

The Cyclones' other living legend, radio announcer Warner Fusselle, will return for his sixth season. Fusselle has covered every one of the team's games, peppering his broadcasts with a colorful Southern drawl reminiscent of Brooklyn Dodger radio announcer Red Barber.

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Thu., June 22 vs. Staten Island Yankees @ 7PM - **KeySpan Park Tins** presented by KeySpan

Mon., June 26 vs. Hudson Valley Renegades @ 7PM - **Rally Flags** / **Coney Island Night** presented by Health Plus

Wed., June 28 vs. Hudson Valley Renegades @ 7PM - **TShirts** presented by Long Island University, Brooklyn

Thu., June 29 vs. Aberdeen IronBirds @ 7PM - **Beach Bags** presented by SUNY Downstate Medical Center

Fri., June 30 vs. Aberdeen IronBirds @ 7PM - **Cyclones Caps** presented by HSBC

Sat., July 1 vs. Aberdeen IronBirds @ 6PM - **Boy Scout Night** presented by Tent & Trails

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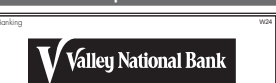
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**K.C. McDaniel PLLC. Notice of Formation of Professional Services Limited Liability Company ("PLLC").** Articles of Organization filed with secretary of State of New York ("SNY") on 5/8/06. Office location: Kings County, SNY has been designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SNY shall mail a copy of any process to the PLLC at 162 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Practice of law and law related services.

**Don & Mills Properties LLC. Notice of Formation of Don & Mills Properties LLC. Arts of Organization filed with Secretary of State (SNY) on 7/28/05. Office location: Kings County. SNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SNY shall mail process c/o DON & MILLS PROPERTIES LLC, DMITRY STEPHANKOVSKY, 2019 NOSTRAND AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, 11210. Purpose: any lawful activities.**

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**Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 2nd day of June, 2006, bearing the Index Number 0005020206, a copy of which may be examined by the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KING'S COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to assume the name of: Sherry Nyeke Giametta. My present name is Sherry Nyeke Salton. My present address is 5975 Glen Pathway, Bayside, New York 11234. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is May 25, 1982.**

**Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 1st day of June, 2006, bearing the Index Number 0005020206, a copy of which may be examined by the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KING'S COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to assume the name of: Joanne Gluska-Agapiou. My present name is Joanne Gluska-Agapiou. My present address is 37-56 80th Street, Jackson Heights, New York 11372. My place of birth is Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. My date of birth is May 25, 1982.**

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